

THE RUTHERFORD Report

THE NEWSLETTER OF SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR JANICE RUTHERFORD

July 2013



Fireworks light up the sky over Lake Arrowhead on the 4th of July. See this issue for information about local Independence Day events. Photo courtesy of Chris Walling

When you do the
common things in life in
an uncommon way, you
will command the
attention of the world.

—George W. Carver

Business Aims to Promote Mountain Tourism

A new business venture in Lake Arrowhead aims to create more attractions and bring more visitors to the idyllic mountain community.

“I think people like coming here as it is, but they will really like coming up here when there’s even more to do,” said Rich Goodwin, who started Lake Arrowhead Adventures along with his partners, Forrest Melton and Jeff Perlis.

Goodwin said he discovered Lake Arrowhead by chance about four years ago when he and his wife were searching for a home in the mountains to escape urban life in Orange County.

They went to Big Bear but didn’t find what they were looking for. Then, on the way home, they happened to spot a sign for Lake Arrowhead and decided to stop by and see what it was like.

TOURISM, PAGE 4

Group Opens Doors for Autistic Youth



When a neurologist diagnosed Cassie Zupke’s then 3-year-old son, Jeremy, with mild autism, she wasn’t sure what the finding meant or what she should do to help her son cope with his condition.

Today, she leads a Rancho Cucamonga-based nonprofit called Open Doors Now that brings parents

of mildly autistic children as well as teachers and school officials together to provide a network of support for autistic children and young adults up to age 25.

“I just decided that I didn’t want other parents to go through the same fears and frustrations that I went through,” Zupke said.

About a year after her son was diagnosed, Zupke enrolled him in preschool, but she soon realized private preschool was ill prepared to deal with her son’s frequent tantrums, which were a result of his impaired social skills—a common symptom of autism spectrum disorders.

“They met me at the door with his bag and said don’t bring him back,” she said. “They didn’t have a clue what to do with him.”

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County Special Districts Wears Many Hats

The San Bernardino County Department of Special Districts means many things to many people.

The department manages 104 special districts (a.k.a. County Service Areas or CSAs) that provide a variety of public services including water, sewer, parks, street lighting, graffiti removal, flood protection, landscaping, refuse collection, road maintenance and more.

The Big Bear Valley Recreation and Park District is the oldest County special district, having been formed in 1934 to fund the construction of a chair lift to encourage winter sports.

Today, the park district manages multiple parks, several community buildings and sport fields, a swim beach and the Big Bear Alpine Zoo, formerly known as Moonridge Animal Park.

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors formed all of the districts over the course of many years after voters in the districts approved measures agreeing to tax themselves to fund the entities.

The Board formed the Department of Special Districts in 1950 to provide one agency to manage the growing number of special districts under the County's control.

A majority of the County's special districts were formed to provide road maintenance in unincorporated communities, Department of Special Districts Director Jeff Rigney said.

"Usually, people who live on roads not maintained by the County pass the hat, so to speak, to pay for the upkeep of their roads," he said. "When they get tired of that, they often find their way to us."

Special Districts staff can help residents through the process of forming a district to deliver a public service, but they also remind residents those services aren't free.

"What I like to tell people is, 'We don't give handouts; we give a helping hand,'" Rigney said.

Some districts, such as CSA 79 Green Valley Lake, have Board-appointed Advisory Commissions made up of district residents.

These commissions discuss district issues during regular meetings and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, which serves as the governing body for all County Service Areas.

Occasionally, a County Service Area will grow so large that residents decide to become an independent special district governed by a locally elected board of directors.

The Crestline Sanitation District and the Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District are examples of former County districts that broke from the County.

But independence isn't for every district.

"When you are a road district with 30 miles of road to maintain, going independent doesn't make a lot of sense," Rigney said. "What (the Department of Special Districts) can offer are economies of scale. We don't have to have a director or regional manager for every district we manage."

Like many things in California, special districts were borne out of the need for water.

In the late 1880s, Central Valley farmers were frustrated by the high cost and unreliability of water being delivered by savvy businessmen who had purchased most of the land adjacent to lakes and rivers.

At the time, riparian rights were the law of the land, and that meant those who owned land next to water sources were the only ones with the right to sell it.

The farmers sent C.C. Wright—a 28-year-old schoolteacher with knowledge of water law—to lobby the State Legislature on their behalf.

The result was the Wright Act of 1887.

The landmark legislation gave voters the ability to form irrigation districts that could borrow money and levy taxes to pay for irrigation ditches, dams and other water delivery infrastructure.

The law also gave these special districts the power of eminent domain. This allowed them to break the water monopolies that had held them hostage for so many years.

As California's population grew in the early 20th Century, communities began forming special districts to provide other services such as mosquito abatement, fire protection, and parks.

Today, there are about 3,300 special districts operating in the state.

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She tried another preschool and met the same result.

Luckily, Zupke was friends with a schoolteacher who encouraged her to contact a local elementary school to request an evaluation of her son. She was referred to Mulberry Early Education Center in Rancho Cucamonga—a public school that concentrates on preschool age students with special needs.

Jeremy did well at the preschool, and teachers recognized how bright he truly was. But when he entered kindergarten at Stork Elementary School, his outbursts and inability to interact with his classmates got worse.

“He would just lay down on the floor and scream,” Zupke said.

A teacher explained Jeremy was acting out because he couldn’t deal with the heightened social anxieties and frustrations that are commonly experienced by people with autism. The school enrolled him in social skills classes and special physical education courses. After a few years, his outbursts became less frequent, but he still had trouble making friends with other students.

Zupke remembered a group of students she met to play Dungeons & Dragons, a role-playing game. The students weren’t social butterflies, but when they got together to play, they had no problems socializing with each other. Zupke thought she might get the same result if she created a kids club for children with autism. The group would also give parents a chance to share advice and to see they are not alone.

“People look at them like they are horrible parents who just can’t control their kids,” she said.

Friendships blossomed as kids enjoyed movies, malls, science centers, camping trips and parties. Later on, Zupke incorporated social skills classes for the kids and presentations on topics such as disciplining a special needs child for parents. Open Doors Now also secured a regular meeting room thanks to the generosity of Abundant Living Family Church.

Over the years, the nonprofit developed a core group of about 30 volunteers that serve more than 1,000 people in western San Bernardino County. Most volunteers are parents of children in the program, but there are also some teachers and school officials who donate their time to work with the kids and their parents.

Meanwhile, Zupke started a blog (www.cassiezupke.com) to share her experiences as a parent of a child with high-functioning autism, and she also wrote a book called *We Said, They Said: 50 Things Parents and Teachers of Students with Autism Want Each Other to Know* that is scheduled to be published in August.

Zupke said her goal is to give parents the information they need to ensure their special needs children get the resources and attention they need to succeed in school and in life.

Jeremy, who is now 17, will be a senior at Los Osos High School later this year, and Zupke said he’s planning to attend college after he graduates.

“He can do that because he developed those social skills and abilities,” she said.

Visit www.opendoorsnow.org for more information about this local nonprofit organization.

2nd District Trivia

Last Issue’s Answer: Snow Valley was once known as Fish Camp because of a local pond that was frequented by fishermen.

Question: What was the original name of the Virginia Dare Winery in Rancho Cucamonga?

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“We were like, ‘Wow! This is a really great place. Why haven’t we heard about it?’” said Rich, who now lives fulltime in the community. “We just kept coming back up and staying at the (Lake Arrowhead) resort and feeling our way around town.”

Rich enjoyed visiting Lake Arrowhead, but he noticed a need for additional activities and better promotion to attract more tourists.

He has more than 20 years experience planning and promoting events throughout the nation and around the globe, including car shows, expos, bike races, food events and more, and he decided to put those skills to work in Lake Arrowhead.

He and his partners started with the launch of the Lake Arrowhead Trolley Car Company, which operates the Arrowhead King—a bright red trolley that takes visitors on a 45-minute guided tour around Lake Arrowhead.

During the trip, visitors learn interesting facts about the community’s history. For instance, reputed mob boss Bugsy Siegel operated a gambling hall there and Howard Hughes

often landed his seaplane on the lake. They also get to visit places such as Blue Jay Village and the UCLA Conference Center.

Later this summer, the venture plans to take tourists on Jeep tours through the San Bernardino National Forest, and they’d like to add other offerings such as zip-line tours and all-terrain vehicle rides.

The company has partnered with the Lake Arrowhead Village—a lakeside, outdoor shopping center—to revamp its Website and host more events, including the Lake Arrowhead Food, Wine and Brew Fest on Aug. 31.

Lake Arrowhead Adventures is also helping promote other local activities and events such as the Lake Arrowhead Queen’s boat tours, the waterslides at nearby Lake Gregory, and the Lake Arrowhead Repertory Theatre Company.

“The end goal is just to get more people to come to Lake Arrowhead, and if we can do that, everybody wins,” he said.

Learn more by visiting www.LakeArrowheadGuide.com.

Upcoming Events

July 4	The City of Rancho Cucamonga will host the 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Epicenter located at 8408 Rochester Avenue. Tickets cost \$8 in advance or \$10 at the event. Call (909) 477-2760 for more information.
July 4	The City of Upland will host the 27th annual 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular Celebration from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Upland High School football stadium. Tickets costs \$8 in advance or \$10 on the day of the event. Call (909) 931-4281 for more information.
July 4	The Arrowhead Lake Association will host a 4th of July Fireworks show over the lake starting at 9 p.m.
July 4	The 10th annual Crestline 4th of July Old Fashioned Community Picnic begins at 11 a.m. on the baseball field near the San Moritz Lodge.
July 6	The Crestline Jamboree Days parade will begin at 10 a.m. on Lake Drive. A fireworks show will be held at 9 p.m. over Lake Gregory. Call the Crestline Chamber of Commerce at (909) 338-2706 for more information.
July 6	Mountain artists will open their studios from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets cost \$20. Visit www.mountainartsnetwork.org for more information.
July 8	The City of Rancho Cucamonga will host a free showing of “Rango” at 7:30 p.m. at Central Park located at 11200 Baseline Road.
July 12	Lake Gregory Regional Park will host a showing of the classic “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory” on the baseball field near the San Moritz Lodge. The show begins at 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$4 per person. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on.
July 13	A trout derby will be held from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lake Gregory Regional Park. Entry costs \$20. Call (909) 338-2760 for more information.
July 20	The Running Springs Farmers Market takes place from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. every Saturday near 2677 Whispering Pines Drive.
July 26-28	Jensen’s Market will host Lobster Fest from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Blue Jay Village. Call (909) 337-8484 for more information.
July 27	A Junior Fishing Workshop will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lake Gregory Regional Park in Crestline. Equipment and tackle will be provided to children learning to fish at the event. The cost is \$7 per child.
July 27	The 5th annual Fontana Arts Festival will take place from 5 to 10 p.m. at Fontana Park. Call (909) 349-6975 for more information.

Dates and times are subject to change without notice. Please contact Supervisor Rutherford’s office at (909) 387-4833 if you have any questions or suggestions for the Events Calendar. You can view information about more local events on Supervisor Rutherford’s home page at www.sbcounty.gov/rutherford.